

CLAIMS

1. A method of forwarding a telephone call from a caller (180) intended to be directed to a first, fixed, telephony number (135) towards a second, mobile, telephony number (125a) in order to render an intended responder associated with the second telephony number reachable at a mobile phone (125) instead that at a fixed telephone (120a), comprising:

having the caller placing a call to a virtual mobile telephony number (145) associated with the first telephony number;

receiving the call at a switching apparatus (170) of a mobile telephony network (150);

conditioned to the fact that a call forwarding from the first telephony number to the second telephony number is enabled, routing the call from the switching apparatus to the second telephony number; and

provided that the responder accepts, terminating the call from the caller at the second telephony number instead of at the first telephony number, so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the responder.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
upon receiving, at the switching apparatus, the call from the caller to the virtual mobile telephony number, firstly routing the incoming call to the first telephony number.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

having the call forwarding enabled at an apparatus (115;120a-120n) associated with the first telephony number.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising:
conditioned to the fact that the call forwarding is not enabled and that the incoming call is answered at the first telephony number, terminating the call thereat and establishing a direct telephone call between the caller and the first telephony number.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising:
in case the call is not answered at the first telephony number, determining the second telephony number and enabling said call forwarding.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising:
after the enabling of said call forwarding, dropping a call section from the switching apparatus to the first telephony number, while keeping the call from the caller in hold at said switching apparatus.

7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in which said first telephony number corresponds to a PBX network (105) having a plurality of extensions (120a,...,120n).

8. The method according to claim 7, in which said first telephony number includes a number of a PBX network switchboard (115).

9. The method according to claim 8, comprising receiving the call at the PBX switchboard (115), forwarding the call to an intended PBX network extension (120a,...,120n) and, in case the call is not answered, providing the second telephony number to a switching apparatus control (175) controlling the switching apparatus.

10. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 9, in which said first telephony number comprises at least one PBX Direct Inward Dial (DID) number corresponding to one of the extensions of the PBX network.

11. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, in which said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first telephony number comprises at least one virtual mobile telephony number associated with said one extension of the PBX network.

12. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first telephony number is a combination of the first telephony number and an identifying code, particularly a prefix code.

13. A method of operating a switching apparatus (170) of a mobile telephony network (150) in order to forward a telephone call from a caller (180) intended to be directed to a first, fixed, telephony number (135) towards a second, mobile, telephony number (125a) so as to render an intended responder associated with the second telephony number

reachable at a mobile phone (125) instead that at a fixed telephone (120a), the method comprising:

associating a virtual mobile telephony number (145) with the first telephony number;

receiving a call (A) placed to the virtual mobile telephony number at the mobile telephony network switching apparatus;

conditioned to the fact that a call forwarding from the first telephony number to the second telephony number is enabled, routing the call from the switching center to the second telephony number; and

provided that the responder accepts, terminating the call from the caller at the second telephony number instead of at the first telephony number, so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the responder.

14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

upon receiving, at the switching apparatus, the call from the caller to the virtual mobile telephony number, firstly routing the call from the caller to the first telephony number, and, if the call from the caller is answered at the first telephony number, terminating the call thereat so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the first telephony number.

15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

receiving information apt to determine said second telephony number from an apparatus associated with said

first telephony number, and causing the call from the caller to be routed thereto.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

after said receiving information apt to determine the second telephony number, dropping a call section from the switching center to the first telephony number, while keeping the call from the caller in hold.

17. In a telephone communications system (100) comprising a fixed telephony network (130) and a mobile telephony network (150), a system for forwarding a telephone call from a caller (180) intended to be directed to a first, fixed, telephony number (135) towards a second, mobile, telephony number (125a) in order to render an intended responder associated with the second telephony number reachable at a mobile phone (125) instead that at a fixed telephone (120a), the system comprising:

a database (155) associating a virtual mobile telephony number (145) with the first telephony number; and

a call transport layer (170) of the mobile telephony network adapted to:

routing a call to the second telephony number in case a call forwarding from the first telephony number to the second telephony number is enabled; and

provided that responder accepts, terminating the call from the caller at the second telephony number instead of at the first telephony number, so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the responder.

18. The system according to claim 17, in which said first telephony number is a number of a PBX network (105) having a plurality of extensions.

19. The system according to claim 18, in which said first telephony number includes a number of a PBX network switchboard (115).

20. The system according to claim 18 or 19, in which said first telephony number comprises at least one PBX Direct Inward Dial (DID) number corresponding to one of the extensions of the PBX network.

21. The system according to any one of claims 18 to 20, in which said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first mobile telephony number comprises at least one virtual mobile telephony number associated with said one extension of the PBX network.

22. The system according to any one of claims 17 to 21, in which said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first mobile telephony number is a combination of the first telephony number and an identifying code, particularly a prefix code.